

STATE ISSUES SET FORTH BY SPEAKERS OF THE DEMOCRACY

(Continued From Page One.)

In the name of the state, we are out of a model of the higher, nobler, and more patriotic citizenship of a great country.

These great American citizens are animated by an inherent spirit of honesty, and hatred of dishonesty in public officials. They agree with our candidate for supreme office that "graft is theft." They believe that anyone guilty of taking money belonging to the people, whether the people of a city, county or state, is worse than a common thief who burglarizes your house or holds you up on the street.

In our platform, the Democratic party makes these planks: "To use its utmost endeavors to eliminate graft and political corruption, and to prevent the permanent lodgment of boss rule in the state."

"This platform shall carry out if elected. We shall do this to the letter, and we shall do it to the letter, irrespective of party, who are opposed to bossism, graft and corruption."

"We favor the raising of all revenue necessary for state expenses, without raising upon the counties, also that each county shall have the right to raise only what it needs for its own affairs and what its own citizens may authorize."

"This certainly is in harmony with the wishes of the masses of the people."

"We favor the assessment of steam railroads and all other public service corporations at their true value."

"We also favor the enactment of laws whereby all franchises and privileges shall be taxed as other property."

"This law or a similar one has been declared unconstitutional in New York. We believe it is right and just that all properties whose value lies in their franchises should pay their share of the public burden."

"We favor 'giving to each and every citizen equal rights and protection, and to each individual the greatest liberty possible consistent with the general good and the proper consideration of the rights of others. Every good citizen believes in this, and he shows his good faith as a member of the community, and his patriotism as a good citizen of the state, by standing by the law, which, so long as they are on the statute books, are supposed and must be presumed to represent the voice of the people."

"This does not mean license to anyone to do evil, or to violate the law. The great Democratic party has always been in favor of law and obedience to law; it believes in the greatest possible liberty for the individual consistent with the general good and the proper consideration of the rights of others. Every good citizen believes in this, and he shows his good faith as a member of the community, and his patriotism as a good citizen of the state, by standing by the law, which, so long as they are on the statute books, are supposed and must be presumed to represent the voice of the people."

"We believe in home rule for village and city, particularly as to all public utilities, including the ownership of street railways as well as waterworks and lighting plants; that any such ownership shall be made by a vote of the people and be safeguarded by the merit system."

"The ownership by cities of lighting and water plants has become common throughout the state, and in most cases has proven satisfactory to the people; there seems to be no reason why a street railway can not be owned by any city, but whether this is a wise thing for any city to do is a matter that should be decided by them by a majority vote of their citizens. It is true that there is at this time an honest difference of opinion as to city ownership of street railways, but there is no difference of opinion as to the rights of the people against the dishonest practices of corporations in giving, and of members of council in receiving, bribes by which the rights of the people in contracts and franchises are given away or sold at a price far less than their value. There certainly is a general belief among the people of cities, towns and villages that they have their rights under the present system, they will demand that some other plan shall be adopted, and as a final resort all will vote to try the experiment of ownership by the cities themselves, even of street railways, rather than continue to be robbed by corporations and corrupt officials."

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"We are in favor of the maintenance of the canal system."

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"It was not the Republican party, as such, that was responsible for this treatment, but the boss-ridden members of the legislature, who had appropriated more money than the state had income, so the governor was obliged to cut down. While under no circumstances would I accuse him of intentionally doing a gross injustice to the farming class, I think he was influenced by the pressing demands of some of these bosses who possibly failed to exercise his better judgment."

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Is it not singular that with the many instances of embezzlement as shown by the number of criminals in the Ohio penitentiary, there is no law worthy of the name on this subject? Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been lost by our citizens during the last few years, and yet nothing has been done. Every safeguard possible should be thrown by means of the law about an institution or individual who holds or receives money belonging to the people. Satisfied as I am that in the great majority of cases these bank failures have been caused by speculation, were I a member of the legislature I would insist upon a provision that no officer or director should be chosen who would not take an oath that he would not, directly or indirectly, engage in speculation or gambling, and for the violation of this provision I would inflict the heaviest penalty possible. Nine-tenths of the losses in national banks, as well as in state and private institutions, have been caused by speculation in stock or grain gambling, in neither of which has the officer had any right to engage while he is a trustee of other people's money."

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to the people their heritage of free and untrammelled independence and liberty."

It remains for you and the voters to decide on the 7th day of November whether the work of this great body of representative men shall be approved or rejected.

On the 24th of May was held at Columbus another convocation under the auspices of the great Republican party, or to speak more correctly, under the supervision and dictation of certain bosses and so-called leaders of that party. This was not a representative body of the people, but a representative body of the bosses, both great and small, or rather of the one mighty boss and his followers. The whole ticket was planned beforehand, and it is said that the pre-ordained nominee for governor was not permitted even to select the man of his choice to place him in nomination, as one worthy to occupy the executive chair.

It is difficult for free citizens of Ohio to realize that a candidate for the highest office in the gift of the people should find such a course necessary and should feel compelled to submit to the degradation of this proving his servility to the boss. Everything was previously planned, the platform was decided, and a member was allowed to express any opinion or sentiment, or to make any protest against the dictation of the imperious and triumphant boss.

Even Ohio's great citizen, Secretary Taft, would not have been permitted to preside over this body had he dared to express himself against the boss and his methods, as had been his wont on any and all former occasions. Is it true that the boss can make and unmake governors and senators, and that he must be "reckoned with" before any Republican can expect to reach the presidency?

It is for you and the voters of Ohio on the 7th day of November to say whether you will approve the action of such a convention or whether you will reject it.

The Brannock Bill.

We arraign Governor Herrick for his attempt to trample on the constitution, for his efforts against the Brannock bill, in interfering with the legislative department by threatening to use his veto to prevent the honest and lawful expression of the general assembly and the wishes of a great majority of the people of the state. The Brannock bill as originally passed by a large majority vote of both branches of the legislature was a fair measure for the protection of the people living in residence districts who did not want saloons in their midst, and was not in the interest of the home and the people; it was in strict harmony with the principles of home rule. The measure had been thoroughly discussed in the legislature and by the press, and there was every evidence that it was favored by the great majority of the people. The governor had the right to veto it, or any other measure if he thought it was unconstitutional or was vicious legislation or against the best interests of the state, but he had no right to interfere with the legislative department while they were performing their duties, and had no right to veto, or threaten to veto, this or any other measure that was for the best interests of the people, at the dictation of any special interest or because of any pre-election promise made in return for contribution to a corrupt campaign fund.

We charge the governor with his subservience to the great boss of Ohio, as indicated by his own efforts and the efforts of his party friends to induce the boss to consent to and approve of his nomination.

We charge that the governor and his strong political friends were obliged to ask the boss to approve of his candidacy; that he did ask this approval either personally or by his leaders, and that it was thus obtained. We believe that the power of the boss was so great and his "organization" so strong that the masses of honest Republicans throughout the state realized that no successful fight could be made against his supremacy in the convention.

We charge the governor that in the interest of the boss himself, he approved the bill going away with spring elections.

We charge the governor with the approval of measures involving, in the aggregate, large sums of money for the needless increase of salaries and for salaries of additional employees whose services were not necessary.

We charge him with improperly using his political influence with the boss, and otherwise with members of the legislature to secure the passage of the iniquitous inheritance tax law.

We arraign the governor for approving the school code, which we believe was drawn up and advised by George B. Cox, and we charge him with perverting the whole school system of the state.

We arraign the governor for approving the new municipal code bill after it had been changed to suit the boss.

We charge that the making of vice mayors and various boards and providing for the increase of salaries of county officers was in the interest of the "organization" and not for the benefit of the people.

The Bonding Bill.

We arraign the governor for his approval of the bonding bill, which was to compel all individuals, trustees and all officials to secure bonds in the amount of one-half of 1 per cent on the total liability to be paid, and that this was enacted for the benefit of certain corporations and not in the interest of the people.

We arraign the governor for his approval of a bill which repealed all the provisions of the original law, so that no record of the expenses incurred and money received is now kept by the state auditor, as the original law required.

We arraign the governor for his approval of the bill to reorganize the Seventh Judicial district, so as to put two judges out of office simply because they were members of a different party, and to constitute a second subdivision and to provide for the election therein of two additional judges who were not needed. We charge this was done to provide places for political friends and was not done in the interest of justice.

We charge Governor Herrick and the last legislature with continuing in office persons who drew money from the state treasury did no service, and we arraign the governor for his approval of the bill to reorganize the Seventh Judicial district, so as to put two judges out of office simply because they were members of a different party, and to constitute a second subdivision and to provide for the election therein of two additional judges who were not needed. We charge this was done to provide places for political friends and was not done in the interest of justice.

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were registered of persons whose bodies were in the graveyards and of others who existed only in name, and that certain corporations and individuals shared in the wholesale plunder. Franchises were sold and purchased at the expense of the people, and you will remember that Wansmaker a few years ago offered the city council two and one-half millions of dollars for a certain franchise which the council was giving away; his offer was rejected, and the people of that great city failed to get up against their characters and their good consciences. Mayor Weaver, took the role of reformer, and has turned the rascals out, and the people of Philadelphia are once more owners of their own city. The people of Milwaukee have for years suffered from the kind of a history and grand useless and now a grand jury has found over 100 indictments.

Conditions are doubtless many times worse in our own great city of Cincinnati. The people there can not secure even a grand jury without the consent of the boss. The conversion of one of the splendid leaders of the Cincinnati honest man would be volcanic and his tales of plunder, by their magnitude and brazenness, would surprise even the temporarily cowed citizens of that great city.

The Democratic party, and with us, we believe, all good citizens of all parties, are making the great campaign not only to have an honest government in Cincinnati, but we are making a fight in behalf of the whole state—a state the proudest, and in our opinion the greatest commonwealth in all the bright constellation of states, a state that has since its foundation a history and grand useless and now a grand jury has found over 100 indictments.

It has been asserted by apologists for the present organization of the Republican party of Ohio, that corruption and graft have always existed; that the moral of the day are better than they ever before, and that the many recent exposures of rascality in office are the result merely of an enlightened public conscience, and of greater publicity, which have brought to light these evidences of graft.

I deny that stealing and corruption must be expected as necessary incidents to the administration of public affairs. Stealing and corruption are not only necessary incidents to, but are the foundation principles of an administration by bosses and gangsters. There can be no such thing as a "good boss" or an "honest boss" in politics. All bosses and their attendant gangsters depend for their existence on spoliation and plunder.

Nor is it true, as asserted, that any greater publicity now aids in exposing bosses and their corruption. It does not work in the bright sunlight of publicity; their deeds are dark, and they work under the cover of darkness. What criminal gives to the public press information regarding the size or method of his graft? What officer or agent of a corporation has come forward voluntarily and confessed that the council of certain city, or that the bosses acting for them, had demanded and were given \$100,000 for certain rights and immunities? What member of the legislature has voluntarily made public admission of the fact that in the last session he was compelled to vote for measures which neither his conscience nor his judgment approved; and that for such service he had received